

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Ben.Washburn@EXCHANGELABS.COM)
To:
CC:
Date: 5/13/2014 3:29:01 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 5/13/14

OPA Daily Digest for 5/13/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) – Letter – 5/13/14: Constituent concerns about claim for payment from EPA regarding work done at the Madison County Superfund site. Due: 5/21/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Phone inquiry/email – 5/9/14: Concerns about MoDOT fine for soil erosion from road project. Due: 5/13/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Letter – 5/2/14: Constituent concerns about the Strecker Forest/Bliss Ellisville site removal action. Due: 5/16/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 5/6/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

KVNO Radio, Omaha – Brandon McDermott – 5/12/14: Questions about the Omaha Lead Site, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

RadWaste Monitor – Jeremy Dillon – 5/13/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis American - EPA to test for radiation at Bridgeton athletic fields - 5/12/14 - On Friday, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the details surrounding their planned radiation screening of the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex – a screening which comes after the community organized private testing of the complex and raised concerns. http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/article_128e42a2-da10-11e3-9cad-001a4bcf887a.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Letter: Supports EPA decision to contain radiological material at landfill - 5/13/14 - On behalf of the St. Louis Building and Construction Trades Council, I support the Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 Record of Decision to contain the radiological material on-site at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letters-to-the-editor/supports-epa-decision-to-contain-radiological-material-at-landfill/article_9433833d-703b-5763-a24f-a2312ebefc7c.html

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier – Waterloo Hires Lawyer to Fight EPA Threats - 5/12/14 - The city has hired an environmental law expert to defend itself against a possible Environmental Protection Agency lawsuit. http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/waterloo-hires-lawyer-to-fight-epa-threats/article_86405de1-6233-545a-ba41-d40420d0e1ce.html

Mason City Globe Gazette - Editorial: Any confinement rules changes will take some time - 5/13/14 - After its hearings around Iowa about feeding operations, the DNR hopes to compile comments and have a report ready to submit to the federal Environmental Protection Agency by August. However, there's the possibility that the EPA will want to make significant rules changes of its own. http://globegazette.com/news/opinion/editorial/any-confinement-rules-changes-will-take-some-time-globe-gazette/article_ce9964b2-002c-58c0-9dca-623a34fdecad.html

St. Joseph News Press - MoKan gets \$200,000 for job training - 5/12/14 - A local agency received federal funding to help boost work force development and job training. The U.S. EPA announced Monday that it awarded \$200,000 to MoKan Regional Council in St. Joseph. The goal is to offer training for people in the Brownfields program, water and waste programs. http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/article_10a17399-8e94-5a2d-8c7f-fb0f84a9f21e.html

Al Jazeera America - In Nebraska, A Different Debate Over the Keystone XL Pipeline - 5/12/14 - In corn country, the debate over Keystone XL is about more than politics; it's about livelihoods and legacies. <http://america.aljazeera.com/watch/shows/america-tonight/articles/2014/5/9/in-nebraska-a-differentdebateoverthekeystonexlpipe.html>

Des Moines Register - Task force looking at climate change solutions - 5/13/14 - Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie says he feels a sense of relief on the heels of a report that details worsening climate change in Iowa and the nation. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2014/05/13/task-force-looking-climate-change-solutions/9025309/>
NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email

Bloomberg - EPA Pushes Cities toward Better Stormwater Management - 5/12/14 - Requirements that municipalities use green infrastructure as part of their stormwater management practices are becoming more common in local and state permitting procedures and regulations, an Environmental Protection Agency official said. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-12/epa-pushes-cities-toward-better-stormwater-management.html>

Wall Street Journal - Exposing the EPA - 5/12/14 - A basic precept of American democracy is that petitioners before their government receive a full and fair hearing. The Obama Environmental Protection Agency is in urgent need of that remedial civics lesson. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303603904579491643733173318>

Omaha World-Herald - Risk to drinking water in York leads to EPA Superfund designation - 5/9/14 - Contamination that threatens drinking water in York has prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to make the community a national priority for cleanup. <http://www.omaha.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140509/NEWS/140508459>

York News-Times (Neb.) - EPA makes York groundwater clean-up a priority - 5/12/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Thursday it will take the lead on cleaning up two contamination sites in York, designating both as national priorities for cleanup. http://www.yorknewstimes.com/news/epa-makes-york-groundwater-clean-up-a-priority/article_2bbf33b8-d6ef-11e3-9332-001a4bcf887a.html

Associated Press - Solar industry seeks to salvage rebate effort - 5/12/14 - Missouri's solar energy industry rallied Monday to resurrect a popular rebate program created by a 2008 renewable-energy ballot initiative that was curtailed when the state's largest utilities said they had to cease participation to avoid rate increases capped by the voter-approved law. <http://www.bnd.com/2014/05/12/3204875/solar-industry-seeks-to-salvage.html>

The Hill - Coal rules will devastate, say biz groups - 5/13/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's carbon dioxide limits for new power plants will devastate the economy by leading to a steep surge in energy prices, the coal industry and its allies warned. <http://thehill.com/regulation/energy-environment/205902-obama-coal-rules-will-devastate-say-biz-groups>

Associated Press - U.S. skipped environmental inspections on high-risk oil wells - 5/12/14 - The government has failed to inspect thousands of oil and gas wells it considers potentially high risks for water contamination and other environmental damage, congressional investigators say. <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/u-s-skipped-environmental-inspections-high-risk-oil-wells/>

TIME - The World Needs More Clean Coal, or We're Screwed - 5/12/14 - Environmentalists have celebrated the rapid growth of renewable power. But a new International Energy Agency report makes clear that coal is still a major, and growing source of electricity. <http://time.com/95970/coal-carbon-free-iea-energy-environment/>

New York Times - Amid Pipeline and Climate Debate, Energy-Efficiency Bill Is Derailed - 5/12/14 - A bipartisan bill to encourage energy efficiency in buildings died in the Senate on Monday, derailed by the contentious debate over the Keystone XL pipeline and President Obama's plans to issue new climate change regulations. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/13/us/politics/bill-to-encourage-energy-efficiency-fails-in-senate.html>

Agri-View - Students help with swine industry research - 5/12/14 - Some student employees at Iowa State University are playing a vital role in research on critical issues in today's swine industry. Assistant professor in agricultural and biosystems engineering Dan Andersen said a current three-university research project focusing on the causes of manure pit foaming offers great opportunity for student involvement. http://www.agriview.com/briefs/livestock/students-help-with-swine-industry-research/article_ba179e4c-2792-5dec-ad7e-e30fd35e1ef6.html

Radio Iowa - Public comment period on new livestock operation regulations ends this - 5/12/14 - The proposed rules would bring Iowa's animal feeding operations into compliance with federal regulations. The Iowa Farm Bureau is in support of the permit changes, but clean water advocates say they don't go far enough. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/05/12/public-comment-period-on-new-livestock-operations-regulations-ends-this-week/>

Iowa Farmer Today - USDA offers more support for smaller operations - 5/13/14 - The USDA has announced additional support and resources for farmers and ranchers with small and mid-sized operations. http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/news/crop/usda-offers-more-support-for-smaller-operations/article_8d65036c-dab5-11e3-96b1-001a4bcf887a.html

Muscatine Journal - A meeting of the minds: Livestock producers, public learn about Good Neighbor Policy - 5/12/14 - A Monday afternoon meeting hosted by Muscatine County on the subject of how county residents and livestock producers could get along came to one conclusion: everyone should be more informed about the whole process. http://muscatinejournal.com/news/local/government-and-politics/a-meeting-of-the-minds-livestock-producers-public-learn-about/article_e4ce50d8-8a7e-5c03-b787-9e6be72b3799.html

Business Record - Iowa loans to benefit 5 metro wastewater projects - 5/12/14 - The Iowa Finance Authority announced this morning it has disbursed more than \$33.7 million in low- and no-interest water quality loans to 29 Iowa cities through the State Revolving Fund. <http://www.businessrecord.com/Content/Default/-All-Latest-News/Article/Iowa-loans-to-benefit-5-metro-wastewater-projects/-3/248/63563>

Daily Caller - Report: State Regulators Won't Let EPA Harm Electrical Grid - 5/12/14 - Environmental Protection Agency global warming policies won't harm the reliability of the electrical grid, says a new report, because utilities and state regulators won't let them. <http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/12/report-state-regulators-wont-let-epa-harm-electrical-grid/>

Wichita Eagle (blog) - Reid wrong on Koch Industries' role in climate change - 5/12/14 - Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., continued his rhetorical assault on the Koch brothers last week, later earning three Pinocchios from the Washington Post's Fact Checker feature for claiming they "are one of the main causes" of climate change. <http://blogs.kansas.com/weblog/2014/05/reid-wrong-on-koch-industries-role-in-climate-change/>

Wichita Eagle (blog) - Moran is among the 10 most truant senators - 5/9/14 - When National Journal checked the attendance records of current U.S. senators, it found they had missed an average 2.5 percent of roll call votes over their tenure. The bottom 10 included Sen. Jerry Moran (in photo), R-Kan., whose 6.5 percent made him less truant than only Sens. Marco Rubio (7.1 percent). <http://blogs.kansas.com/weblog/2014/05/moran-is-among-the-10-most-truant-senators/>

Omaha World-Herald - Iowa distillery to feed whiskey byproduct to hogs and whiskey hogs to people - 5/12/14 - an Iowa distillery is trying a new twist on the pork pairing: feeding a rye whiskey byproduct to heritage hogs and marketing the meat to gourmet chefs. <http://www.dealsomaha.com/article/20140513/MONEY/140519562>

Lincoln Journal-Star - In disaster area, it could be days before power is on - 5/12/14 - Gov. Dave Heineman approved a state disaster declaration Monday and Nebraska Army National Guard soldiers are mobilizing after Mother's Day storms caused extensive damage to homes, businesses and public infrastructure in 10 counties.
http://journalstar.com/news/local/in-disaster-area-it-could-be-days-before-power-is/article_2572c096-57e6-5b84-bcd9-8bd5fa81862b.html

National Review Online - If You Still Need Proof the EPA Is a Rogue Agency, Last Week Provided Plenty - 5/12/14 - The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing last week at which it was revealed that one senior civil servant at the Environmental Protection Agency spent much of his office time watching pornography over the Internet. <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/377760/if-you-still-need-proof-epa-rogue-agency-last-week-provided-plenty-iain-murray>

Heritage Foundation (blog) - Thune Seeks to Prevent Trillion-Dollar-per-Year EPA Regulation - 5/12/14 - As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) moves forward with more stringent ozone regulations, it could be the costliest EPA regulation in history. Senator John Thune (R-SD) wants to make sure that doesn't happen.
<http://blog.heritage.org/2014/05/12/thune-seeks-prevent-trillion-dollar-per-year-epa-regulation/>

PlanetArk - Safety debate eyes taming Bakken crude before it hits rails - 5/13/14 - After a spate of fiery derailments, the scramble to make North Dakota's Bakken crude oil safer when it's being transported on trains has focused on better tracks, slower speeds, and reinforced railcars that bypass urban areas. But that is starting to change.
<http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/71540>

Los Angeles Times - Days with unhealthy air will soar unless emissions are slashed, study says - 5/12/14 - Smog could worsen across the United States in the coming decades as climate change boosts summer temperatures and makes ozone levels more difficult to control, a new study says.
<http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/05/12/4112462/days-with-unhealthy-air-will.html>

EcoWatch - 'Earth Focus' Premiere Exposes Coal Ash's Toxic Impact on American Families - 5/13/14 - Every year, U.S. power plant generate more than 100 million tons of coal ash, the nation's largest industrial pollutant next to municipal waste. The conversation about coal's role in climate change has obscured this fact to much of the public.
<http://ecowatch.com/2014/05/13/earth-focus-kcet-linktv-coal-ash/>

EDF - Companies Convert Chemical Waste into Fuel - 5/13/14 - Chemical distributor Univar has shipped its 100 millionth gallon of fuel-quality waste for reuse from its waste chemical business, ChemCare, to Systech Environmental, a provider of byproduct co-processing services in North America.
<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/05/13/companies-convert-chemical-waste-into-fuel/>

Washington Post - Report on sequester impacts prompts criticism of dire predictions - 5/8/14 - Government-wide budget cuts last year caused only one layoff from the federal workforce, but they forced more than 770,000 employees to stay home without pay for up to a week and cut into assistance for the poor, according to a watchdog report.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2014/05/08/report-on-sequester-impacts-prompts-criticism-of-dire-predictions/>

Greenwire - Draft letter from EPA advisors urges tougher ozone standard - 5/12/14 - A draft letter from a U.S. EPA science advisory committee recommends a tight standard for how much ozone pollution can be in the air, recommending that the lower bound of the standard should be 60 parts per billion, much lower than the current standard. But the letter notes that committee members haven't made a decision on the upper bound of the ozone standard. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059999409>

Clean Air Watch - Draft Letter from EPA Science Advisers: Current National Smog Standard is Too Weak; TBA How Tough We Think It Should Be - 5/12/14 - As you may recall, EPA's science advisers have begun reviewing the science behind EPA's national clean air standards for ozone. When we last left the scientists, they had not firmed up an official recommendation to EPA's political leadership. <http://www.cleanairwatch.org/2014/05/draft-letter-from-epa-science-advisers.html>

Greenwire - Draft letter from EPA advisors urges tougher ozone standard - 5/12/14 - A draft letter from a U.S. EPA science advisory committee recommends a tight standard for how much ozone pollution can be in the air, recommending that the lower bound of the standard should be 60 parts per billion, much lower than the current standard. But the letter notes that committee members haven't made a decision on the upper bound of the ozone standard. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059999409/>

AgWeb - Power Hour: Disaster Aid Rumors Ripple Through Plains - 5/9/14 - A federal disaster bill for agriculture likely will be adopted this summer to address persistent

drought, though its scope and obstacles to approval are unclear. http://www.agweb.com/article/power_hour_disaster_aid_rumors_ripple_through_plains_NAA_Nate_Birt/

Brownfield Ag News - McCarthy, Vilsack pressed on Waters of U.S. - 5/13/14 - South Dakota Congresswoman Kristi Noem is one of a number of federal lawmakers asking EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to stop the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule under the Clean Water Act. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/05/13/mccarthy-vilsack-pressed-waters-u-s/>

White House (release) - Committing to a Clean Energy Future - 5/12/14 - In the coming weeks, our efforts to deploy clean energy, cut carbon pollution, and fight climate change will take new aim. And we will continue to work with our partners – from every sector and every corner of America – to implement the President’s Climate Action Plan and advance this country toward a cleaner energy future. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/05/09/committing-clean-energy-future>

Climate Central - Melt of Key Antarctic Glaciers ‘Unstoppable,’ Studies Find - 5/12/14 - Sea level rise estimates are going to need to be revised upward: A portion of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet that is home to some of the fastest-flowing glaciers on the continent appears to have entered a state of retreat and melt that is “unstoppable,” two new studies have found. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/melt-of-key-antarctic-glaciers-unstoppable-studies-find-17426>

Chemical & Engineering News - Trove Of Toxic Mercury Lurks In Arctic Sea Ice - 5/12/14 - Environment: Ice-core analysis shows more methylmercury will enter Arctic food chain as climate change speeds up ice melt. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/web/2014/05/Trove-Toxic-Mercury-Lurks-Arctic.html>

National Public Radio - 'Past The Point Of No Return:' An Antarctic Ice Sheet's Slow Collapse - 5/12/14 - NASA held a press conference to discuss the stability of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and its potential contribution to future sea level rise. The researchers announced that the ice sheet's collapse is both underway and unstoppable. <http://www.npr.org/2014/05/12/311896973/past-the-point-of-no-return-an-antarctic-ice-sheets-slow-collapse>

Associated Press - NASA spots worrisome Antarctic ice sheet melt - 5/12/14 - The huge West Antarctic ice sheet is starting a glacially slow collapse in an unstoppable way, two new studies show. Alarmed scientists say that means even more sea level rise than they figured. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/05/12/5018594/nasa-spots-worrisome-antarctic.html>

E&E Daily - EPW eyes solutions to addressing stormwater runoff - 5/12/14 - Stormwater runoff from roads drops untold amounts of oil, grease and other pollutants into rivers, lakes and streams. But because it's considered a nonpoint source under the Clean Water Act, it's also largely unregulated. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2014/05/12/stories/1059999375>

EnergyWire - Coal generators worry about future with expected rules - 5/12/14 - Utility companies that depend on coal as a major source of generation are deeply worried about regulations expected soon from U.S. EPA. <http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/05/12/stories/1059999353>

BNA - Inspector General Says PHMSA Oversight, Management of Natural Gas Inadequate - 5/12/14 - The federal agency that oversees state natural gas pipeline safety programs is using largely outdated and inadequate procedures to guide state authorities and fails to detect key weaknesses in its evaluations of the programs. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46505980&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0j2p4b0&split=0

BNA - EPA Exemptions Threaten Environment, Human Health, Advocates Tell D.C. Circuit - 5/12/14 - Environmental advocates asked federal appeals court judges to vacate two Environmental Protection Agency rules that exempt certain fuels from hazardous waste restrictions, saying the regulations do not adequately protect human health and the environment. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46505981&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0j2p4r4&split=0

BNA - IEA Says Cost of Containing Global Warming Growing as Coal Use Outweighs Renewables - 5/12/14 - The cost of cutting carbon emissions from power generation enough to restrict global warming to safe levels is rising because growing coal use outweighs the progress in renewables, the International Energy Agency said. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46505986&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0j2y8c0&split=0

BNA - EPA's Carbon Limits for New Power Plants Must Be ‘Grounded in Reality,’ Industry Says - 5/12/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed carbon dioxide emissions limits for new fossil fuel-fired power plants should be reworked to be “grounded in reality,” an industry group said May 12.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46505998&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0j5m5m8&split=0

BNA - U.S. Negotiator Says Climate Strategies Needed for Countries' Adaptation Efforts - 5/9/14 - Climate change negotiators are becoming increasingly aware of the need to help affected countries cope with the impact of fluctuating weather patterns, a senior Obama administration official said May 9. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46441686&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0g4w5r1&split=0

BNA - Obama Outlines Executive Actions To Promote Solar Power, Energy Efficiency - 5/9/14 - A new goal of \$2 billion in energy efficiency upgrades to federal building was among a range of energy initiatives announced by President Obama May 9 in a speech outlining executive actions the administration is taking to promote energy efficiency and solar power. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46441675&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0g0b4k3&split=0

BNA - EPA Announces Document on Pesticide Exposure - 5/9/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of a draft white paper for public review and comment describing a community water system drinking water intake dataset in a May 9 Federal Register notice. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46441688&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0g6r4a9&split=0

BNA - EPA Considering Rule to Require Reporting Of Chemicals Used in Hydraulic Fracturing - 5/9/14 - The EPA is considering rulemaking that could require chemical manufacturers and processors, oil and gas exploration companies to report on chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46441671&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0f9w7k3&split=0

BNA - Regulators Incorporate Green Infrastructure Into Permitting Procedures, Rules, EPA Says - 5/9/14 - Requirements that municipalities use green infrastructure as part of their stormwater management practices are becoming more common in local and state permitting procedures and regulations, an Environmental Protection Agency official said. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46441676&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f0g0c0u2&split=0

BNA - Setting Regulatory Standards: The Government Should Speak With One Voice - 5/9/14 - This article examines how multiple agencies often develop exposure levels for a chemical that vary widely from one another and argues that the standard-setting function should be consolidated under a single regulatory body. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=46441662&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9k7y1j1&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Floats Voluntary Disclosure For Fracking Chemicals, Irking Advocates - 5/9/14 - EPA is proposing a voluntary system as one option for companies to disclose the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing processes, though the plan is drawing scathing criticism from environmentalists. <http://insideepa.com/201405092470426/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-floats-voluntary-disclosure-for-fracking-chemicals-irking-advocates/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Lawmakers Back EPA Water Funding Pilot - 5/9/14 - A House-Senate conference committee has reached an agreement on a water resources funding bill that includes language from the Senate version on the bill creating a new EPA water infrastructure funding pilot sought by large municipalities. <http://insideepa.com/201405092470424/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/lawmakers-back-epa-water-funding-pilot/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - State Regulators Reach Deal On Efficiency Principles For EPA Utility ESPS - 5/9/14 - State utility, energy and air regulators have reached a major agreement on energy efficiency principles they will pitch for EPA to include in its pending existing source performance standards (ESPS) to cut power plants' greenhouse gases (GHGs). <http://insideepa.com/201405092470425/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/state-regulators-reach-deal-on-efficiency-principles-for-epa-utility-esps/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Obama Touts Building Efficiency To Cut GHGs - 5/9/14 - President Obama is touting new private sector commitments to increase commercial and industrial buildings' energy efficiency by 20 percent in a decade. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201405092470382/Clean-Energy-Report-Blog/Clean-Energy-Wire/obama-touts-building-efficiency-to-cut-ghgs/menu-id-204.html>

Inside EPA - Looming Backlog May Aid EPA Effort To Strengthen Stormwater Permits - 5/12/14 - EPA appears to be eying a growing number of expired municipal sewer permits as an opportunity to spur state-specific or permit-specific stormwater retention standards at new developments. <http://insideepa.com/201405122470471/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/looming-backlog-may-aid-epa-effort-to-strengthen-stormwater-permits/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Courts Will Determine Air Law Penalties After EPA Suit 'Defense' Scrapped - 5/12/14 - Appellate courts will take the lead on resolving what penalties to impose on industries for alleged Clean Air Act violations in future litigation. <http://insideepa.com/201405122470468/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/courts-will-determine-air-law-penalties-after-epa-suit-defense-scrapped/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - White House Plans Campaign To Highlight Climate Study's Regional Risks - 5/13/14 - The Obama administration is launching a public outreach campaign to highlight the findings of the just-released third National Climate Assessment (NCA), in an effort to underscore adverse regional impacts of climate change. <http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-05/13/2014/white-house-plans-campaign-to-highlight-climate-studys-regional-risks/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - EPA's New Spray Drift Risk Model Draws Criticism From All Sides - 5/13/14 - EPA's new draft spray drift model, intended to address concerns that existing pesticide assessments do not consider spray drift as an exposure pathway, is being widely criticized. <http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-05/13/2014/epas-new-spray-drift-risk-model-draws-criticism-from-all-sides/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - NODA Precedent Complicates RCRA Suit Over EPA Gasification Rule - 5/12/14 - Appellate judges are asking EPA and environmental groups to provide the court with a written explanation of how a 2004 decision addressing the agency's failure to allow public comment on data tied to a Clean Air Act policy relates to the pending litigation over EPA's rule exempting some fuels produced by gasification from waste handling mandates. <http://insideepa.com/201405122470544/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/noda-precedent-complicates-rcra-suit-over-epa-gasification-rule/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA's Key Waste Classification Rule Faces First Appellate Court Test - 5/12/14 - Industry and environmental groups have filed opening briefs in consolidated litigation challenging EPA's landmark rule for determining whether material burned in combustion units is a "waste" subject to strict incinerator emission controls or a "fuel" subject to less-stringent boiler requirements. <http://insideepa.com/201405122470543/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epas-key-waste-classification-rule-faces-first-appellate-court-test/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - In Key Appeal, EPA Details New Test To Further Narrow CWA Permit 'Shield' - 5/13/14 - EPA is proposing a new test that would further narrow the "permit shield" that protects individual Clean Water Act (CWA) permittees from enforcement, arguing in a just-filed brief that facilities forfeit the shield if they fail to follow state rules when applying for permit coverage. <http://insideepa.com/201405132470605/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/in-key-appeal-epa-details-new-test-to-further-narrow-cwa-permit-shield/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

Mo-Kan Regional Council to Receive \$200,000 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant from EPA – 5/13/14 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

5/12/14 – Meet with Iowa Committee for Community Improvement (ICCI) Representatives, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

5/12-13/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

5/14/14 – State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

5/15/14 – Small Business Majority Roundtable, Waterloo, Iowa. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

5/20-21/14 – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/4/14 – Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) Visit, Regional Office. Contact: Deandre Singletary, 7373

6/5/14 – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

6/12/14 – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7373

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

5/20-21/14 – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

5/15/14 – Trailnet, St. Louis, Mo. For EJ Grant Site Visit Contact: B. Corazzin, 77429

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

5/12-16/14 – National Total Maximum Daily Load/Measures and 303(d) Listing Conference, Denver, Co. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067, Debby White, 7886

Des Moines Register

Task force looking at climate change solutions

Donnelle Eller,, deller@dmreg.com;
11:38 p.m. CDT May 12, 2014

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2014/05/13/task-force-looking-climate-change-solutions/9025309/>

Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie says he feels a sense of relief on the heels of a report that details worsening climate change in Iowa and the nation.

The longtime environmental advocate, who will host President Barack Obama's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience today and Wednesday in Des Moines, said he senses there's a broader understanding of the issues now.

Last week's National Climate Assessment and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are speaking with a clear voice, Cownie said: Humans are causing the planet to warm. And it's expected to continue without action.

"It's no longer, 'Maybe climate change is happening,' " Cownie said. "We have the science and data that prove climate change is happening. We know scientifically what the causes are. Now, we need to set about dealing with it."

The White House panel is a good start, Cownie said. The group — representing eight governors, 16 mayors and two tribal representatives — will make recommendations to the president on how to prepare for and reduce the impact of climate change.

"Now we're looking at solutions," said Cownie, whose love of nature began with his grandparents, farmers near Boone who talked with him about being good stewards of the land.

Cownie said addressing climate change will affect everything from the economy to how we power our homes and businesses to our health and how our farmers feed the world.

Climate change also creates challenges for cities like Des Moines as flooding and other extreme weather break up roads, bridges and buildings. Last week's climate report said the Midwest has seen a 37 percent increase in the number of heavy rain events over 50 years.

"It's not just what we build, but where we build it that we have to examine," he said.

Climate change "will cause us to rethink what our economy looks like, how we energize it, what our renewables look like," he said. "There will be a huge, huge push to get off the carbon sources of power and energy and get more renewable energy, like wind and solar and geothermal, that have a much smaller carbon footprint."

Cownie admits those shifts are complicated. For example, distributed energy generation such as building solar panels on homes could create reduced demand for utilities. Residents who want to add wind energy now run into restrictions in urban areas.

Finding real climate-change solutions is unlikely without cooperation between cities and their rural neighbors — a relationship that's often contentious.

For example, Bill Stowe, the Des Moines Water Works CEO, pushed for stronger regulations for large animal feeding operations in Iowa at a public hearing last week, saying that row-crop farming and animal confinements are degrading central Iowa's drinking water. Last year, the utility spent nearly \$1 million removing nitrates from drinking water used by 500,000 customers.

The agency is considering legal action to force stricter state regulations of farm operations, Stowe said.

"When we look at our own resources in Iowa, we don't have to look too far to say we have water quality problems," Cownie said. "We need to address them.

"It's not just an urban problem. We have to figure out how to get urban, suburban and rural folks in Iowa to sit down and figure out how we deal with water flooding and the unfortunate" soil erosion occurring in the state, he said. "We can't just turn our backs on problems anymore."

The state has adopted a plan to reduce nitrates, phosphates and other nutrients entering rivers, streams and lakes. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, a voluntary effort, is part of a broader initiative to reduce the size of the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. It's sparked millions of dollars of investment in watershed improvements and conservation initiatives such as cover crops, among other efforts.

A recent estimate from Iowa State University agronomy professor Rick Cruse said Iowa is losing \$1 billion in corn and soybean yield potential with soil erosion. Cownie said it benefits Iowa farmers to adopt conservation methods that retain topsoil and nutrients.

"Probably the most important asset in Iowa is our soil and our ability to raise crops on it," Cownie said. "We're losing soil productivity because our soil isn't what it was."

Both urban and rural Iowans need to reconsider how prairie grasses, trees, contour planting and other conservation efforts will protect the soil, result in better absorption of precipitation and capture nutrients, and lessen downstream flooding.

In "pre-settlement time," 85 percent of the moisture that fell in Iowa was absorbed on site, and 15 percent went into streams, Cownie said. "Today that's reversed," he said. "It's what we're planting as well as what we've removed."

"It's not enough just to maintain the quality of the ground. We have to improve it," Cownie said.

More on the meeting

University, state and local leaders will talk about climate change and its impact in Iowa today, beginning with registration at 7:30 a.m. at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, 100 Locust St., Des Moines. Presentations will last until 12:45 p.m. Wednesday's discussions are restricted to panel members.